



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Ambrose Wilson IV, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear Proclaims May as Building Safety Month in Kentucky *State task force studies enforcement, expansion options*

Frankfort, Ky. (May 4, 2105) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed May as Building Safety Month in Kentucky.

The awareness month is sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), a nonprofit agency that develops safety codes and standards used in the design and construction industry. In Kentucky, staff of the Public Protection Cabinet's Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction (DHBC) works diligently to ensure the state's residential and commercial buildings are safe and efficient.

"Safeguarding the public is our No. 1 mission," said Gary Feck, commissioner of DHBC. "Our building inspectors and fire prevention experts collaborate with building owners, designers, contractors and others in the construction industry to guarantee that complying with safety standards is at the top of everyone's list."

DHBC's Division of Building Codes Enforcement staff reviews and approves construction documents and inspects construction projects and buildings in accordance with the Kentucky Building Code, including commercial buildings and two-family dwellings. All single-family homes are reviewed and inspected by the local county or city building official if an inspection program exists. For those counties or cities without an inspection program, the builder is required to meet the Kentucky Residential Code and is required to obtain mechanical systems inspections on new construction.

The agency was established to unite all related functions pertaining to the building industry and to provide a more effective building inspection process. DHBC and its 270 employees enforce statewide standards for building construction. The agency ensures fire and life safety in existing buildings, and licenses/certifies plumbers, electricians, boiler contractors, sprinkler and/or fire alarm contractors and building inspectors.

Building Safety Month is divided into four awareness weeks: fire prevention, backyard safety, natural disaster preparation and energy conservation.

For more information, visit the ICC website at <http://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2015-building-safety-month-is-may/>.

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